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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,924	06/07/2005	Axel Naethc	DE02 0305 US	8368

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EXAMINER

CRUZ, LESLIE PILAR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2826

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/537,924

Applicant(s)

NAETHE ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie P. Cruz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.


- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


Minhloan Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2826

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/07/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figs. 1 and 2 are unclear.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “common collector-, base- and emitter zone” and the “**three** conductor track systems” as recited in claim 1, the “overlay region” as recited in claim 3 and the “conductor track systems” as recited in claim 4 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show, as disclosed in page 4 line 33 thru page 5 line 1, that the “contacted base contact region 5 is centrally arranged, and annularly encloses the emitter region 4” as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d).

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "1" and "3,4" have all been used to designate emitter region. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and

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informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “2” has been used to designate both contacted base region and series resistor [page 5 lines 4-5] and reference character “5” has been used to designate both “base contact region” [page 4 lines 32-33] and “collector deep-diffusion regions” [page 6 lines 6-7].

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Page 4 line 33 thru page 5 line 1 – “contacted base contact region 5 is centrally arranged, and annularly encloses the emitter region 4” is unclear as to Figs. 2 and 3 do not show that structure;

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- Page 5 lines 3-5 – it is unclear as to whether the “contacted base region 2” and “series resistor 2” are the same region (if they are different regions, then they can’t be labeled with the same reference number 2);
- Page 6 lines 6-7 – “collector deep-diffusion regions 5” is unclear as to whether region 5 is the base contact region;
- Page 6 line 4 – “emitter region 1” is unclear as to whether the emitter region is regions 3, 4 as disclosed on page 4 line 32.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear as to how the overlay region between the base conductor track system and the base series resistor is minimized. In other words, it is unclear as to what how the minimization of the overlay region is being compared to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nawata et al. (US 4,157,561), hereinafter Nawata.

With respect to claim 1, Nawata (e.g. Figs. 2a, 2b, 5a and 5b) discloses a semiconductor component comprising at least one lateral bipolar transistor which is composed of at least one group of single transistors with a common collector-, base- and emitter zone, which are parallel connected by three conductor track systems which bring together the emitter-, base- and collector currents of each of the single transistors; and each single transistor comprises an emitter region [23] having an emitter-contact zone [25] with an emitter contact [27], at least one active emitter zone [23] and a connection zone [24] between the contact zone and the active zone, a base region [22] having a base-contact zone [22] with a base contact [26] and an internal base series resistor $[R_{B1}-R_{B3}]$, and a collector region [21], characterized in that the internal base series resistor is a structured semiconductor region comprised of at least two ring segments $[R_{B1}-R_{B3}]$, which is connected to the base-contact zone and the base contact [column 6 lines 26-38 and column 6 line 67 thru column 7 line 7].

With respect to claim 2, Nawata discloses the semiconductor component as claimed in claim 1. Column 2 lines 20-25 of Nawata further discloses that the internal base series resistor is a structured semiconductor region with emitter doping.

With respect to claim 3, Nawata discloses the semiconductor component as claimed in claim 1. Nawata (e.g. Figs. 2a, 2b, 5a and 5b) discloses that the overlay region between the base conductor track system and the base series resistor is minimized.

With respect to claim 4, Nawata discloses the semiconductor component as claimed in claim 1. Column 6 lines 19-25 and column 6 line 67 thru column 7 line 7 of Nawata (e.g. Figs. 2a, 3b, 5a and 5b) further discloses that the conductor track system are formed by a single layer metallization.

Telephone/Fax Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie P. Cruz whose telephone number is (571) 272-8599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, Wael Fahmy and Robert Pascal can be reached on (571) 272-1705 and (571) 272-1769, respectively. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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